

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIOY 1179

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8096

PASS INS ISENSTEIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: MORE REFUGEES ARRIVE IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 7934 (NOTAL)

1. CONGEN URGENTLY REQUESTS GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN REFTEL. THE BURMESE VESSEL CITED IN REF IS STILL OFF HONG KONG WAITING TO ENTER AND ANOTHER SMALL GROUP OF REFUGEES HAS ARRIVED IN HONG KONG. AS VIRTUALLY ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HOPE TO ENTER THE US WE FEEL SURE THAT THESE AND THE IN-EVITABLE SUBSEQUENT ARRIVALS WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT US FOR ASSISTANCE. WE NEED CLEAR POLICY GUIDELINES TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HKG.

2. JULY 7, 1976 A SMALL VIETNAMESE FISHING VESSEL WITH 16 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVED IN HK, BUT THE HK GOVT HAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND. AT PRESENT HKG IS REFITTING THE SHIP AND REPROVISIONING IT FOR CONTEMPLATED DEPARTURE TO TAIWAN SOMETIME IN THE MORNING OF JULY 12. AT THE REQUEST OF THE REFUGEES AS TRANSMITTED THROUGH HKG, A CONSULAR OFFICER AND THE DD INS/HK VISITED THE REFUGEES ON THEIR BOAT IN THE HARBOR. THE REFUGEES MAY BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS:
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A. NGUYEN VAN SON AND FAMILY (HIS WIFE AND THEIR EIGHT CHILDREN).

HIS WIFE IS SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT AND THE AGES OF THEIR CHILDREN RANGE FROM 2 TO 13. NGUYEN VAN SON STATES THAT HE WORKED FOR US AIRLINES IN VIETNAM FROM 1968 TO 1971 AND FROM 1971 TO APRIL 1975 HE WORKED FOR THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AS AN AIR CONTROLLER AT DA NANG. HE STATES THAT HE HAS A COUSIN, DO THANG KONG, IN THE UNITED STATES (CALIFORNIA) BUT HE DOES NOT KNOW HIS ADDRESS. HE ALSO HAS A BROTHER IN LAW, VU KHAC HO, WHO WAS IN THE US STUDYING ARTILLERY AT THE TIME OF THE FALL OF VIETNAM.

B. THE SECOND GROUP CONSISTS OF A MAN, LUONG VAN MINH, HIS WIFE AND TWO AND A HALF YEAR OLD DAUGHTER. HE HAS NO RELATIVES IN THE US NOR ANY PRIOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE USG.

C. HOANG CHAN VINH, A SINGLE MALE WITH NO RELATIVES IN THE US AND NO RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE USG.

D. PHAM PHUOC HOA, SINGLE MALE WITH NO RELATIVES IN THE US AND NO RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE USG.

ALL OF THE REFUGEES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES BUT IF NOT THEY WOULD FIRST TRY TAIWAN AND THEN THE PHILIPPINES.

3. NONE OF THE REFUGEES ARE SAILORS, BUT NGUYEN VAN SON WAS ABLE TO NAVIGATE THEIR VOYAGE TO HONG KONG THEIR BOAT IS A 54 FOOT SOLIDLY BUILT FISHING VESSEL WHICH APPEARS SEAWORTHY IF MANNED BY AN EXPERIENCED CREW, HOWEVER IN THIS INSTANCE, NGUYEN VAN SON, IS THE ONLY PERSON WITH PRIOR SAILING EXPERIENCE. TO THE REPORTING OFFICER THE BOAT APPEARS DANGEROUS IN A HEAVY SEA, AS HIGH SEAS COULD EASILY WASH OVER IT TO THE PERIL OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABOARD.

4. CONGEN HAS BEEN INFORMED BY ICEM THAT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION HAS REQUESTED ICEM TO SPEAK WITH THE BURMESE CONSUL GENERAL ABOUT THE 99 REFUGEES ABOARD THE BURMESE VESSEL OFF HONG KONG. AS WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE ALSO WILL BE CONTACTED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THIS GROUP, OUR NEED FOR GUIDANCE IS MOST URGENT.

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